

The Speech
OF THE RIGHT HONOURABLE
NATHANIEL
LORD FIENNES,
One of the Lord Keepers of the Great
SEALE OF
ENGLAND,
Made before his
HIGHNESSE,
And both HOUSES of
PARLIAMENT:

On Thursday the 27th. of *January*, 1658.
Being the first day of their sitting.

Published by his Highnesse's Command.

L O N D O N,
Printed for *Henry Twyford*, in Vine Court,
Middle Temple, 1659.

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Nathaniel Lord Fiennes,
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of ENGLAND.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

THE Wise man having
proposed this Questi-
on, *What can the man
do that cometh after the
King?* He answered
himself thus, *Even that
which hath been already done.* And to the

like Question at this time, What can he say that speaketh after his Highness? The like Answer may not be unfitly returned, Even that which hath been already spoken. Let me therefore crave your patience, while I eccho back again unto you the same things, which even now you have heard from his Highness; things, which cannot sound too often in your ears, because they cannot sink too deep into your Hearts; nor be too much upon your Thoughts. You see, how the most wise God, the Supreme Moderator and Governor of all things, in the present Dispensation of his Providence, which we behold before our eyes, doth as it were checquer out his Work unto us, and seemeth to pave his Way amongst us in Black and White. That which represents it self unto us in a sad and black colour, is the Death of his late Highness, of famous and of blessed Memory: That which appeareth unto us with a fair and

and promising Aspect, is the Succession of his present Highness to the Government of these Nations, by the Appointment and Declaration of his Father, in pursuance of the Advice of Parliament, and with the general and joyful Acceptation of the People, testified by so many their most affectionate Addresses; and that from most, if not all, Counties, Cities, Burroughs, and other Societies of men, of all sorts, professions, and conditions: whereby it doth most manifestly appear, That what God spake unto them in that Dispensation, at such time as their Hearts were full of doubt, fear, and trouble, upon his late Highness his Death, was a *word fitly spoken, like Apples of Gold in Pictures of Silver.* And now that his Highness hath called this Parliament of the three Nations, he standeth at the Head of this great and most honorable Assembly, the Representative of the three Nations, and is held forth to the World as a noble

noble piece, beset on the one side, and on the other, with most rich and precious Stones, whereby much of price, and much of lustre is added to it. It is not my business to praise the dead, much less to flatter the living: But the things which I shall represent unto you, in relation to this Alteration which of late the Providence of God hath wrought amongst us, shall be onely such Considerations as have been remembered unto you by his Highness, and such as may minister fit matter for your thoughts to be exercised about, in order to the great Consultations for which at this time you are called together.

His late Highness, you know, and the whole World knows, was a Man of War, yet he dyed in Peace, and left these Nations in Peace at home, and Victorious abroad, and they are still (Gods Name be praised for it) in Peace, and in Peace they are brought
to

to your hands; wherein his Highnesse, and the Nations have placed great confidence, and have great hopes, and expectations that they shall be safe, and preserved in peace: a thing so well pleasing to God, who is the God of Peace, and so acceptable to these Nations, who have sufficiently testified their love to peace; and their longing after settlement: But that is not all; his late Highnesse not only left these three Nations in peace, with, in and between themselves, but also in Unity; and as it was his and the late Parliaments worthy work and care to unite these three Nations into one Commonwealth, that they might be no longer thornes in the eyes, and goades in the sides of each other, as sometimes they have been (and as *Wales* formerly was, and as other Provinces in our neighbour Nations were unto them; still they found means to incorporate them into one body, and Government:) So his Highnesse held it incumbent upon him to bring them united

to, and in this Parliament, according to the practice of the late Parliaments whilst they sat, and the expresse Declaration of their intention, That all Parliaments for the future should be Parliaments of the three Nations, and That there should be some Members to serve in them from, and for the three Nations; which Unity in the supream Legislative Power, doth not only serve at present to prevent a mischief, and distraction, but may also, by the blessing of God, for the future, procure a full and perfect Coalition; whereby the breaches and sufferings of many former ages will be avoided, their desires and endeavours attained, and the fears of many succeeding Generations secured, and so at length a strong triple cord twisted together, which cannot be easily broken; I say which cannot be easily broken while it remains twisted together: but if untwisted, it may not only be soon and easily broken it selfe, but after each part will serve and help to break the other

ther. In the next place, that which I shall offer to your thoughts upon this Subject, is; That his late Highnesse had in much in his heart to build the House of God, with the Courts thereof, and made great Preparations for it. By the House of God, I mean the Church of God, by the Courts thereof, the true and pure Worship of God, and Justice and Judgment amongst men, This makes the outward, That the inward Court of Gods House; and to all these his late Highnesse hath made very considerable Preparations.

As first, *David*, that sweet Singer of *Israel*, was not more skilfull to beget Consort in Discord, and in tuning the severall and different strings of his Harp to a melodious Harmony, then his late Highnesse was dextrous and wonderfully successfull in keeping Love between dissenting Brethren, and preserving a Christi-

an Unity in a Christian and warrantable variety, which thing is a great preparation towards the building of that Spirituall House, whereof we spoke.

Another great Preparative was, The care he constantly took, that Godly and able Preachers and Ministers should be sent forth into all parts; and before they were sent out, that they should passe the test and examination of Prudent, Learned and Pious, Approvers.

A third Preparative was, The care he constantly took of the Universities and Schooles of good Learning, that those Fountains might alwayes be kept clear, and that from thence there might continually issue a pure River of water of life, as clear as Chrystall, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.

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A fourth Preparative was, The putting of such Persons in places of Trust and Power, which would be a countenance to godly men and Godlinesse, and discountenance Atheizme and Profanenesse.

And lastly, As to the outward Court of Gods House, The Administration of Judgment, and Justice amongst men, what were his desires and in-deavours, and what his care from time to time to fill the Benches with able and Learned Judges, we all know.

All these preparations, and many more, did his Highnesse make for this House, and all the materialls thereof are so fitted, and squared before hand; by the humble Petition and Advice, and other good Lawes made by the late Parliament, that, by the help of God, there will be no need of any new hammering, nor that there should be heard the noyse of any Hammer, or Axe,

much less of Spear, or Sword, or any Tool of Iron, for what is to be further done in the building of this House. Such indeed that look upon the Petition and Advice with a partial and prejudicate eye, or, as it may be distorted on the one side or the other in the execution thereof, may think there hath not been a right measure taken of many things, and that there is great need of running them over again. But whosoever shall well weigh the same, and look into it with a single eye, will finde, That both our Spiritual and Civil Liberties have been squared, stated, and defined therein with a great deal of care and exactness, and that according to the true nature of a Definition; That it is neither too Narrow, nor too Broad, neither too Long, nor too Short; That it hath not taken In any thing that should have been left Out, nor left Out any thing that is Essential. I say this, as to the
main,

main, That no truly Godly men need to fear Persecution, nor any wilfull Sinners, of any sort, either in Faith or Practice, hope for Impunity: That no Free-men need fear to be made Slaves; nor, That any mens lawless Liberty, under pretence of making all free, should indeed make all men Slaves.

But the Legislative and Executive Powers are so stated therein, in relation to one another, and to their own parts within themselves, that neither may hinder, but each part help, the other; and that none in either might have more or less power then is necessary for the good of the whole. And yet is there still behinde a great and a glorious Work, in the location and composition of these parts, though never so well fitted. The Execution of the Law is the Life, the Complement, the

the perfection thereof. The application of Things to persons, and of Persons to things; and the right joynting and cementing of one part to the other, by a Spirit of love within, and establishment of due and necessary order without, will make this House to rise up into a strong, a perfect and a beautifull structure and Fabrick amongst us; to which much of care, and many provisions will be necessary. What then remains, but that his Highnesse and both Houses of Parliament, should set about this noble work, till they have brought it to perfection. That, as is fresh in your memories, and as you even now heard from that reverend Person who was the mouth of God unto you, Mercy and Truth may meet together, and Peace and Righteousnesse kisse each other, that Christian liberty may be preserved, without unchristian licentiousnesse, that Ministry and Magistracy, may be maintained and refined

fined, and Learning and the Schools
 thereof so ordered, that they may con-
 tinually supply the same; and not be, as
 Abbies and Monastries sometimes were,
 either Nurseries of Vice and Idleness,
 or of Faction and Contention; That
 Godliness may be set on the Throne,
 and Profaneness thrown out on the
 Dunghil; That Law and Justice may
 be executed with Equity and Mercy,
 That neither Craft nor Cruelty may take
 advantage of the rigor of the Law, or
 of the hands of God to turn Judg-
 ment into Wormwood, and Justice in-
 to Gall: That Judgment and Justice
 may run down with a clear and swift
 Stream; and if any Rubbish, Mud, or
 Weeds, through length of Time, be got
 into the Channel, it may be cleared by
 such careful hands, as, in scouring the
 Channel, will take heed not to dig
 down the Banks, whereby an Inunda-
 tion of Arbitrary Power and Juris-
 diction

diction, shall be let in upon the Nations.

In the last place, That which I shall offer to your consideration, is, That, if this Government, when it first sprang up in the hands of his late Highnesse, out of those dreadfull Confusions which had covered the face of these three Nations, was readily imbraced by them as a choice and hopefull Plant, though as yet but a tender one, and such as had but newly taken to the Soyl: with how much more reason may we now expect, that it should be enabled to encounter the ~~forrest Stormes and Tempests~~, that may arise? being supported partly by its own proper Firmnesse, through the good will and liking of the People, out of the Experience they have had, of the Benefit they have recieved from it; and the Peace and Tranquillity they have enjoyed under the shadow thereof; and partly by the accession of Parliamentary Authority,

both

both past, and to come, which it cannot but much expect, and relye upon, from time to time, and at all times, considering the great obligations that their wisdom and good affection to the welfare of these Nations, and the Law, by their oaths, and otherwise, hath laid upon them in this behalf: So that it being so well rooted downwards, and so well grown upwards, though possibly the boughs and branches thereof may be a little shaken sometimes, and moved one while this way, and another while that way, yet there will be no danger of the trees falling, by Gods grace, unless we have so far provoked his justice by our ingratitude in general, and in particular for the mercy we have, and may still further enjoy (if it be not our own faults) under this Government, that he shall suffer a Spirit of division to run through the principal parts thereof, that they fall one

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from another, and so at length fall one upon another, and so at last fall down all together, and then be trodden under foot, and that on all hands, and on every side, and with them the peace of these Nations which they enjoy at home, and the honor and renown which they have gained abroad; than which they never had more then at this day, both far and near. But what speak I of the honor of men, when as the honor of God, and the safety and prosperity of his Churches and people, both here, and throughout all Christendome, doth so much depend upon the peace and consistency of these nations at this time, as in truth they do, as much, if not more, then on all the Nations in the world besides?

This is a great word which I have said, but it is a true one, and if the present state, and posture of affairs throughout the whole Christian world, be
 well

well weighed, and considered, it will be found that this is no swelling vaunt, but a well-measured truth. And because it is so, no doubt the grand Enemy of our Peace, because he is the grand Enemy of God, and his Church, will be very busie at this time, with all his instruments, and will cast many mists before our eyes. He is a spirit of darkness, of error, and mistakes, that he may become a spirit of mis-understanding and division, and he is a spirit of division, because he delights in war and blood-shed; the natural consequences thereof; for he was a murderer from the beginning: But we are not ignorant of his arts, and wiles, and whatever fair and beautiful shapes he appears in at the first, yet if we examine him to the bottome, from top to toe, we shall at length discover him by his divided, and dividing foot; and thence take warning to a-

void him. We have also a wholesome, and Divine Council to preserve us from falling into his snare : That is, to hold the unity of the spirit, in the bond of peace. What is that bond of peace? In a Moral sense, it is that triple knot of true love and good understanding between His Highness and the two Houses of Parliament. In a politique consideration, it is the constitution of our Government, whereby we have another triple Cord, besides that of the three Nations united into one Commonwealth, viz. the constitution of their Supreme Legislative power, consisting of a single Person, and two Houses of Parliament; which Cord, while it is kept well twisted together, will be a great strength to it self, to the Nations, and to the people of God in these, and all our neighbouring Nations round about us. But if once it begin to unravel,

and

and the two ends fall one from another, and from the middle, all will run to ruine. Therefore be very careful to hold fast the bond, and beware of all such as shall be picking at the knot, under what colour, or pretence soever, yea though they promise never so much, and undertake to binde it up as fast, and in a better fashion then it was before. This tying and untying of the bond, and continual seeking after new fashioned knots, hath put these Nations to much trouble, and into more danger. It is good to hold what we have, till we are sure to meet with that which is better; And of all fashion knots, the Nations will be worst satisfied with a Bowe knot, a sliding, a slip knot, which will be alwayes fast and loose, which every touch at either end will dissolve, and leave the Nations always at uncertainty, always in unsettlement.

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But the knot which takes in both ends, the top and the bottome, and joyns them fast together, and to the middle with a treble knot, and wherein each part helps to fasten the other, and the drawing of either end, draws all nearer and closer together; this will make a fast knot, a knot (by Gods blessing) like to hold, and to continue. And surely were there no other consideration but this (give me leave to repeat it, though I have said it once before) this alone were sufficient to make us keep close together, at this time, because we cannot fall in pieces, as things now stand abroad, but the whole Protestant interest, throughout the whole world, is like to fall asunder also with us.

For if we well consider how the Princes, and States in Germany, both the Upper, and the Lower, and in the Northern parts of Europe, begin to state their interest
other-

otherwise, and to take a different measure of their Confederacies, and alliances, then formerly they have done, We shall finde upon the matter but one single bar that is considerable, to check the growing power of the Austrian family in those parts, whereunto it cannot long make head, without support and help from others, and from whence onely, any that is considerable can be expected, is not hard to judge. I shall not need to minde you of that which more nearly concerneth you (for it so nearly concerns you, that you cannot but be sensible of it) I mean the present condition of Affairs, in relation to the Sound and Baltick Sea, and the great Forces both by Sea and Land, that look that way: And how far, and how soon this may bring to the Stake all the Materials wherewith your Walls must be upheld, (I say your best Walls, and the best in the world, though Woodden ones) I leave to your consideration: And how critical this very Spring may prove to the saving or losing of your Stake. Onely this I shall say,

say, should your Wings be once clipped in that kinde, when you shall get up again to the pitch where now you are, none but he onely, who onely (and that too in an extraordinary way) can help you up again, he onely can tell. On the other side, for the other branch of the House of Austria, (which sometimes hath been, and may soon be again the terrour and jealousie of the whole world) you know what Ballance it onely hath, and upon what ticklish terms it now stands, and what friends he hath made, and what he further hopes to make of old Enemies; and what advantages he hath, and still further hopes to make of them; not onely to your prejudice, and the endangering of your ruine, but of those themselves also in the end, whose helping hands, by inticements of present advantages, he endeavours to draw to his assistance, in the pulling down of their own out-works, and best Supports. It is true, he hath suffered some Breaches, and received some Wounds of late: but how soon, by the help of that

vast

vast Treasure, which he drawes continually
 from the Indies (if he may bring it still
 quietly home) he may repair those Breaches,
 and heal up those wounds again, who doth not
 see? Some things are fitter for your thoughts,
 then your ears; therefore this I shall onely
 say in general, that the opportunities which
 you have had, and yet in part have, to put your
 Interest, and that of your best Friends, in
 some measure in safety, may soon be lost,
 (if they be not already upon the Wing) and
 then it may never be in your power to recover
 them again.

Therefore His Highness maketh no
 question, but that you will take these
 things into your speedy and serious
 consideration, and that you will think
 timely of the means of Defence and
 Offence in order thereunto.

The late Parliament having engaged
 in this War, very honourably made some
 considerable provisions to carry on the
 same, I say considerable with respect to

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our little World, out of which they were to be raised; though not proportionable to that great World, and those vast Territories and Dominions whereof our Enemy is possessed; and whereupon they vaunt themselves, that the Sun doth never set. But our comfort also on the other side is, that he that is our Sun doth never set, and he that is our shield will never fail us.

You will receive a particular Account, from those under whose Survey and care those things are, of the state of the publique Revenue, and of the Forces both by Sea and Land, your inward and outward Walls under God; and as good as any in the world. But as all things which are good are also costly, so can it not be expected but that the charge of them should be great.

His Highness hath assured you, that the Army (I speak of the forces both by Sea and Land in the three Nations)

is a good and faithful Army; and will be ready to engage in every good thing and action, whereof no man either ought, or need to make question. His Highness hath further told you, that they are a patient Army, and when you see the Accompt of their Arrears, that will be out of question; and without all question, God hath used them as singular instruments of his honor, and of the honor of these Nations: And as *England* by Gods mercy is now enlightened in the knowledge of the truth; it would well near venture a starving, (though God be praised that is not its case) then it would starve such an Army, in such a Cause, wherein the honor of God and of the Nation shall be concerned. This I think I may adventure to say in general, that our preparations are not greater, then our Neighbors, though our Concern is every way as much, or more then theirs; neither are our debts great

ter then theirs, though we have had more occasion of expence, or full as much every way: And if our in-come had answered the foot of Accompt, which the last Parliament went upon in their intended supplies, we had not increased much (if at all) the debt of the Commonwealth, neither had we exceeded our bounds, or not so much (by Gods blessing on our designs) as we have enlarged its bounds and Territories; and that also, so advantagiously, as not onely the danger of Hostile invasion, and Trade-destroying Pyracie is set at a further distance from us, but also much Honor abroad, together with safety and advantage at home, is thereby accrued unto these Nations.

Before I conclude, I must again reiterate that which runs so much in my minde, because it lies so much upon my heart; That upon the issue of your Counsels, and the Peace and consistency
of

of these Nations at this time, doth very much, if not wholly depend, the life, and breath of all the hopes, of all the expectations of the Churches of Christ, throughout the World. Since then there is so great a trust reposed in you, so great a Price put into your hands, lay your hands upon your hearts, and lift your hearts up to Heaven, where your help, where our hope lies. His Highness hath fully expressed His high esteem of Parliaments, and His judgement of them, that they are the most adequate and commensurate Councils, to matters of so great and so high importance, and He doth as firmly resolve, that they shall enjoy all those great Freedoms and Privileges which have been granted unto them, in order to those great ends; and His hope and prayer to Almighty God, is, that they may be made use of by you to those great and blessed ends, that all the Three Nations; yea, that all the people

ple of God every where, may rise up all together and bless you, and that you may be blessed, and your names be a blessing to this and all succeeding Generations.

This is all that I have in charge from his Highness to say unto you; saving what particularly relates to the Members of the House of Commons: That they should repair to their House to chuse their Speaker.

FINIS.